

SERVICE AVIATION



Royal Air Force and Official Announcements : Fleet Air Arm News : Military Aviation Abroad

VICKERS VINCENT general-purpose machines on Middle East Service. These machines are essentially similar to the Vildebeest.



Higher Appointments

THE Air Ministry announces the appointment of A.V.-M. John Hugh Samuel Tyssen, M.C., to be Air Officer Commanding, British Forces in Iraq, with effect from September 20, *vice* A.V.-M. Christopher Lloyd Courtney, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., who assumes command of No. 16 (Reconnaissance) Group, on that date.

A.V.-M. Tyssen, born in 1889, was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps as a Flying Officer from the Army in 1915. During the Great War he served in France and was awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous skill and gallantry. He was granted a permanent commission in the R.A.F. with the rank of Squadron Leader, in 1919, and in 1920 he was appointed to command No. 20 Squadron in India. In 1924 he was posted to No. 1 Group Headquarters for Air Staff duties and while there he took a course at the Senior Officers' Army School, Sheerness. From April, 1930, to March, 1935, he commanded the Base at Gosport and subsequently was employed on Air Staff Training Duties and as Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters, Fighting Area. He was appointed Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters, No. 11 (Fighter) Group, in May, 1936, and Senior Air Staff Officer and temporary Air Officer Commanding at Headquarters, No. 12 (Fighter) Group, in April, 1937. Since December, 1937, he has been employed at Air Headquarters, British Forces in Iraq, successively as Senior Air Staff Officer and Air Officer-in-Charge of Administration.

He was promoted to Wing Commander in 1923, to Group Captain in 1931, to Air Commodore in 1935, and to his present rank in January, 1938.

A.V.-M. Courtney, born in 1890, was commissioned in the Royal Navy in 1909 as a Sub-Lieutenant. Having gained the Royal Aero Club Certificate (No. 328), he served during the War with the R.N.A.S. and R.A.F. in Belgium and France. For his services he was awarded the D.S.O. and C.B.E., and was mentioned in despatches, besides having foreign orders bestowed upon him.

In 1919 he became Deputy Director of Equipment at the Air Ministry and was granted a permanent commission in the R.A.F. as a Wing Commander. Subsequently he served in India and as an Instructor at the R.A.F. Staff College. In January, 1929, he was appointed Deputy Director of Operations and Intelligence at the Air Ministry and in December, 1930, was posted to the Iraq Command as Senior Air Staff Officer. He was awarded the C.B. for services in connection with the operations in Southern Kurdistan in 1930/31. In January, 1933, he was appointed Director of Training at the Air Ministry, as Director of Staff Duties in April, 1934, and as Director of Operations and Intelligence and Deputy Chief of the Air Staff in January, 1935. Since February, 1937, he has been Air Officer Commanding, British Forces in Iraq.

He was promoted to Group Captain in January, 1925, to Air Commodore in January, 1931, and to his present rank in January, 1935.

The Canadian Orders

IT is reported from Canada that Mr. Paul Sise, president of the Northern Electric Company, Canadian subsidiary of the Western Electric Co., is heading the new 1,250,000-dollar central assembly company which will establish two plants at Toronto and Montreal for the assembly of parts of bombers to be built by the Canadian industry for the British and Canadian Governments. Bankers and industrialists are on the board of the new company and the aviation industry is represented by W. J. Sanderson, of Fleet Aircraft, Ltd., Victor M. Drury, of the Canada Car Company, Hubert Pasmore of

Fairchild Aircraft, Ltd., W. H. McIntyre of the Ottawa Car Manufacturing Co., and E. Labelle of Canadian Vickers, Ltd.

All Canadian aircraft companies are to share in the orders from the British and Canadian Governments, each plant making certain components. In the first instance engines will be brought from England. The finished machines will be flown to this country from Montreal.

R.A.A.F. Calls for Recruits

THE Royal Australian Air Force is now being expanded, and 900 recruits a year are needed. The chief demand is for fitters and turners, but photographers, wireless operators, instrument makers, and cooks, etc., are also needed.

The R.A.F. in India

THE Home Government is increasing its annual grant to the Government of India for defence purposes by £5,000,000, in order that the defences of India may be brought up to date. As part of this programme it is proposed to re-equip some of the R.A.F. squadrons in India with new types of aircraft.

Recruiting Returns

THE total number of men enlisted during the past week is 700, making a total of 6,680 since the recruiting campaign began twelve weeks ago. The applications during the week for entry in the various classes were 1,403—as airmen 1,281, as pilots 107, and as observers 15.

Fleet Air Arm Ratings

AN Admiralty order gives the scale of pay for air apprentices, air fitters and riggers, and air artificers. Ratings of both the air artificer branch and the air fitter and air rigger branch will first be trained as air apprentices for three years, and on passing out will be rated air fitters or air riggers. They will then serve for two years at sea. Fifty per cent. will then be selected for a further one year's training to qualify for acting air artificer, 4th class, and at a later date a further ten per cent., approximately, will undergo the course for air artificers.

It is interesting to note that the Admiralty does not use the term "airframe," so puzzling to the layman, but speaks of "aircraft frame."

Reunion Dinners

A TWENTY-FIRST anniversary reunion dinner for past and present officers of No. 104 (Bomber) Squadron will be held on Saturday, October 8, at the Royal Air Force Club, 128, Piccadilly, London, W.1. The price of tickets is 7s. 6d. each, exclusive of wines. Officers desirous of attending the dinner should communicate with Sqn. Ldr. D. P. Lascelles, R.A.F. Station, Bassingbourn, Kneetsworth, Royston, Herts.

The Royal Flying Corps Wireless Operators Old Comrades Association was formed in 1930 to foster the spirit of comradeship created during the Great War. Membership is open to all wireless operators who served in the R.F.C. and R.A.F. up to 1919.

The annual dinner is to be held on Saturday, October 22, 1938, at the Princes Restaurant, Piccadilly, London, W.1. Full particulars may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, at 64, Arlington Road, London, N.14.